

# Simple Steps You Can Take to Keep Your Agricultural Operation Safe

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Maintain basic security by locking gates, doors, and filing cabinets. Install and use security lighting and alarms. Test your systems.

Make sure appropriate authorities have current maps of your facilities, including sensitive or vulnerable locations like shut-off valves or security areas.

Get to know your local police and fire departments. Make sure they know how to get to your facility and that they have any necessary keys.

Control access to your facility. Establish check-in and check-out procedures. Use visitor ID badges for tours. Limit parking by visitors to designated parking areas.

Visitors should be escorted at all times. Employees should also take responsibility for security and report unescorted visitors to management.

Insist that visitors wash their hands thoroughly before contacting livestock.

Thoroughly screen people who apply for jobs. Watch for unusual behavior by new employees.

Report suspicious activities to local authorities, this protects against agroterrorism as well as theft.

Carefully evaluate requests for information about your facilities. Obtain as much information as possible, such as name, address, reason for request and planned use of any information. If you do not know the requestor (such as a reporter), ask for references and then call to verify.



*In January of 2002, President Bush signed the Defense Appropriations Act, which provided an additional \$328 million in USDA funding for homeland security protections. This includes \$105 million for APHIS pest and disease exclusion, detection and monitoring; \$80 million for upgrading USDA facilities and operational security; \$50 million for an animal bio-containment facility at the National Animal Disease Laboratory; \$40 million for the Agricultural Research Service; \$23 million for the Plum Island Animal Disease Center; \$15 million for security upgrades and bioterrorism protection for the FSIS; and \$14 million for increased security measures at the National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, Iowa.*